

## Title: Kwanzaa Cards

Grade Level: K-5

**Objective:** Members will learn about the 7 principles celebrated during Kwanzaa and design a unique Kwanzaa card with collage.



## Lesson Plan

**Materials:** Cardstock, magazines, construction paper, glue, scissors, markers

**Opening Activity:** Ask members: "What is Kwanzaa and why is it celebrated?" Created in 1966, Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday that celebrates history, values, family, community and culture. The ideas and concepts of Kwanzaa are expressed in the Swahili language, one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith). Engage with members in dialogue about these 7 principles and what they mean! Kwanzaa is celebrated Dec 26-Jan 1, with one principle celebrated on each of the 7 days.

### Core Activity:

- Have members choose 1 of the 7 principles to inspire a collage- you may want to choose 1 principle for the whole group. Distribute scissors and magazines, instruct members to cut out images and words that express that principle.
- Distribute card stock- 1 piece to each member. Have them FOLD the cardstock in half to make a card. Older members can crease the fold with a MARKER EDGE- show them how to do this.
- Distribute glue and have members create their collage on the card and include a greeting! The traditional greeting phrase: "Habari gani?" (pronounced "hah-BAH-ree GAH-nee") means "what's the news?" and the proper response is whatever principle is associated with that day of Kwanzaa.
- Set the cards aside for the glue to dry, invite members to take their cards home for family!

### Reflection:

As students help clean up the space, ask them: which principle did you choose and why?

